

REMARKS

The applicant notes with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119. Submitted herewith is a certified copy of the priority document.

The applicant acknowledges and appreciates receiving a copy of form PTO-1449, on which the examiner has initialed all listed items.

Claims 1 – 12 are pending. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,282,957, Akimoto et al. (“Akimoto”). Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akimoto further in view of JP60188809, Kosuge et al. (“Kosuge”). The rejection, insofar as it may be applied to the claims as amended, is respectfully traversed for reasons including the following, which are provided by way of example.

As described in the application, the invention is directed to reducing the necessity of mechanical adjustment, e.g., “to provide a vibration type angular velocity sensor which needs neither a trimmer nor a suction device.” (Specification 4, lines 3 - 4.) Accordingly, and referring to Fig. 1 for example, an output of an adjusting circuit 18 is applied to the first stage 22a, 22b of a second detection circuit 21 as a comparison reference.

According to the claims, e.g., claim 1, the invention is directed to a vibration type angular velocity sensor. There is a vibrator for vibrating in a driving axis direction upon application of an AC voltage thereto. Also provided is a driving circuit for applying the AC voltage to the vibrator. A first detection circuit produces a first signal corresponding to a displacement of the vibrator, which occurs in the driving axis direction in response to the AC voltage. A second detection circuit produces a second signal corresponding to a displacement of the vibrator, the

displacement occurring in a detection axis direction perpendicular to the driving axis direction.

An adjusting circuit adjusts an amplitude of the first signal of the first detection circuit in the same phase or reverse phase. The adjusting circuit applies the adjusted first signal to a first stage circuit part of the second detection circuit as a comparison reference signal of the second detection circuit. (E.g., claim 1.)

Without conceding that Akimoto discloses any element of the claimed invention, Akimoto is directed to an angular velocity sensor and diagnosis system. An object of Akimoto is “to provide an angular velocity sensor including a diagnosis system capable of detecting the breakdown of the sensor including the breaking of sensor wires. (Col. 1, lines 43-45.)

The office action asserts that Akimoto discloses the invention as claimed. To the contrary, Akimoto fails to teach or suggest the invention, as presently claimed, when the claims are considered as a whole. Akimoto fails to teach or suggests, for example, that “the adjusting circuit applies the adjusted first signal to a first stage circuit part of the second detection circuit.” (See, e.g., claim 1.) To the contrary, the adjusting circuit of Akimoto does not apply the adjusted first signal to a first stage circuit part of the second detection circuit. In Fig. 3 of Akimoto, for example, a current-voltage conversion circuit 207, 208 corresponds to the first stage of a second detection circuit 209, 210, 212. However, no adjusted signal arising from an amplifier (e.g., the first detection circuit) 201 is applied to the first stage circuit 207, 208.

Akimoto fails to teach or suggest, for example, these elements recited in independent claim 1. It is respectfully submitted therefore that claim 1 is patentable over Akimoto.

Recognizing the deficiencies of Akimoto, the office action cites Kosuge in connection with the rejection of claims 3 – 4. Kosuge, however, fails to remedy the deficiencies of Akimoto. For example, Kosuge fails to teach or suggest applying an adjusted signal to a first stage circuit

23. Accordingly, the claimed invention is patentable over the combination of Akimoto and Kosuge.

For at least these reasons, the combination of features recited in independent claim 1, when interpreted as a whole, is submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art. In addition, Akimoto clearly fails to show other claimed features as well.

With respect to the rejected dependent claims, the applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable not only by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 1, but also because of additional features they recite in combination.

New claims 6 – 12 have been added to further define the invention, and are believed to be patentable for reasons including these set out above.

The applicant respectfully submits that, as described above, the cited prior art does not show or suggest the combination of features recited in the claims. The applicant does not concede that the cited prior art shown any of the elements recited in the claims. However, the applicant has provided specific examples of elements in the claims that are clearly not present in the cited prior art.

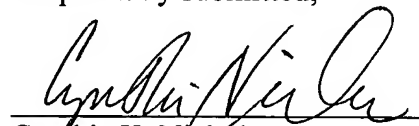
The applicant strongly emphasizes that one reviewing the prosecution history should not interpret any of the examples the applicant has described herein in connection with distinguishing over the prior art as limiting to those specific features in isolation. Rather, for the sake of simplicity, the applicant has provided examples of why the claims described above are distinguishable over the cited prior art.

In view of the forgoing, the applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

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Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Cynthia K. Nicholson', written over a horizontal line.

Cynthia K. Nicholson

Reg. No. 36,880

Posz & Bethards, PLC
11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 10
Reston, VA 20190
Phone 703-707-9110
Fax 703-707-9112
Customer No. 23400